

(*A. parilis*, Pasc. 1882) is the ♂ of *A. indigaceus*, Pasc. 1882.

(*A. rubrirostris*, Pape, 1907) = *A. lameerei*, Faust, 1899.

(*A. trilineatus*, Faust, 1891) = *A. signatus*, Boh. 1836.

A. signatus, Boh., is cited by Bovie (on the authority of Faust) as an African species, but in reality it is Indian; and all the specimens identified by Faust under this name (cf. Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg. 1899, p. 415) will almost certainly prove to be *A. arcuatus*, Boh.

A. roelofsi, Lewis, is omitted from Bovie's Catalogue; it was proposed (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1879, p. 465) as a new name for *A. albolineatus*, Roel. 1875 (*nc* Boh. 1836), and *A. sexvittatus*, Faust, 1894, falls as a synonym of it.

The genus *Acerus*, Pasc., should not be included in the Alcidinæ; it belongs to the Hylobiinae, being nearly related to *Paipalesomus*, Schh.

XV.—On the Varieties of the Lizard *Ophiops elegans*, Mén.
By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

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THIS lizard, the type of the remarkable genus *Ophiops* established by Ménériés in 1832, the distinguishing feature of which resides in the apparent absence of eyelids[†], varies

* "Palpebra inferior nulla, superioris tantummodo rudimenta," Ménériés.—"Oculi palpebris destituti, capsula oculari instructi," Wiegmann.—"Pas de paupières," Duméril & Bibron.—"Eyelids none," Günther. I have long ago set right this misconception. The only character distinguishing this genus from *Cabrila*, Gray, is the fusion of the lower eyelid with the upper, a state of things conveying the appearance of an absence of the eyelids. What was supposed to be the cornea of the eye in *Ophiops* is the transparent disc of the lower lid, neither more nor less developed than in *Cabrila*. Although united with the upper, the lower eyelid is, however, not absolutely immovable. On touching the transparent disc in an *Ophiops occidentalis* which I had alive, I observed this to be at once lowered, the upper half of the eye being then covered by the granular portion of the lid.

considerably in the lepidosis, more or less according to the districts it inhabits, and has, in consequence, given rise to the establishment of a certain number of species, untenable as such. However, with a large material (I have carefully examined about 350 specimens) it is just possible to draw up definitions justifying the retention of some of these forms, whilst degrading them to a subordinate rank.

The typical *Ophiops elegans* was founded on specimens from Transcaucasia, in which, according to Boettger, the number of scales and plates round the body varies between 34 and 40*. Those examined by me are from Asia Minor (Angora, Kaisarieh, Albistan, Giaour Dagh).

The varieties which I recognize are four in number. Their characters are contrasted with those of the typical form in the following synopsis, intended to apply to series of specimens:—

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 32 to 41 (usually 34 to 40) scales and plates round middle of body; 7 to 13 (usually 9 to 12) femoral pores on each side; collar distinct only on the sides; occipital small or very small | Forma typica. |
| 28 to 34 scales and plates round middle of body; 8 to 12 (usually 9 to 11) femoral pores on each side; collar distinct only on the sides; occipital small or very small | Var. <i>ehrenbergii</i> . |
| 30 to 37 (usually 31 to 36) scales and plates round middle of body; 8 to 11 (rarely 12) femoral pores on each side; collar often distinct, sometimes free across the throat; occipital rather large, sometimes 2 to 2½ times the width of the interparietal | Var. <i>persicus</i> . |
| 30 to 34 scales and plates round middle of body; 11 or 12 femoral pores on each side; nostril between 3 shields, a single postnasal being present. | Var. <i>mizolepis</i> . |
| 33 to 49 (usually 40 to 46) scales and plates round middle of body; 10 to 16 (usually 11 to 15) femoral pores on each side; collar and gular fold often distinct; occipital small or very small. | Var. <i>schlueteri</i> . |

Var. *ehrenbergii*.

Amystes ehrenbergii, Wieg. Arch. f. Naturg. 1835, ii. p. 1.

As has been pointed out by Boettger, the specimens from Western Asia Minor and the Southern Sporades differ from

* Having counted them in 70 specimens from Angora, I find 16 specimens with 36 scales and plates, 12 with 37, 11 with 38, 8 with 40, 7 with 39, 6 with 35, 6 with 34, 2 with 33, 1 with 32, 1 with 41. 10 femoral pores in 58, 11 in 46, 9 in 22, 12 in 9, 13 in 4, 8 in 1.

the typical form in having larger scales on an average. The same form occurs also in Syria (*Amystes ehrenbergii*, Wiegman.), together with the small-scaled *O. schlueteri*, Boettg.

I count 28 to 34 scales and plates round the middle of the body; the posterior dorsals are sometimes nearly as large as the upper caudals, forming 7 to 10 longitudinal series between the hind limbs. The lower border of the subocular is usually longer than in the typical form, $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the upper border, rarely $\frac{1}{4}$.

The specimens examined by me are from Constantinople, Smyrna, Xanthus, Meander Valley, Zebil Bulgar Dagh (Cilician Taurus), Lebanon, Mt. Hermon, Mt. Tabor, Samaria, Galilee, Jerusalem.

Var. *persicus*, nov.

The specimens from Persia (Superghan, L. Urmi, Ispahan, Shiraz, Karman) are distinguished by the larger occipital, which may be twice or twice and a half the width of the interparietal, and the more extensive share taken by the subocular in the border of the mouth, agreeing with the var. *ehrenbergii* in the latter respect. The collar is often more distinct, sometimes free across the throat. 30 to 37 scales round the middle of the body, usually 31 to 36. 8 to 11, rarely 12, femoral pores on each side.

Var. *mizolepis*.

Gymnops mizolepis, Stoliczka, Proc. As. Soc. Beng. 1872, p. 124.

Ophiops mizolepis, Blanf. E. Persia, p. 369, pl. xxv. fig. 2.

A single specimen from the low country S.W. of Kalabagh, on the Indus, has been made the type of a distinct species, and even referred to a distinct genus, on account of the presence of a single postnasal instead of two. I have not seen the specimen, stated to have 34 scales and plates round the body and 12 femoral pores on each side, but there is nothing in the description to warrant a separation from *O. elegans*, and I should have felt inclined to regard the presence of one postnasal instead of two as an individual peculiarity, such as I have noticed in the var. *schlueteri* and in *O. occidentalis*, were it not that Blanford has rediscovered the same form at Basra, Mesopotamia, where it is said to occur in abundance, and where the character appears to be fixed*. It is also noteworthy that the only two specimens

* According to Blanford, it occurs as a rare exception in S. Persia:

from Haifa in Palestine examined by Boettger are distinguished from all other Syrian individuals by the same character. In view of the constancy of the single postnasal in individuals from certain localities, I retain *O. mizolepis* under a varietal name, but provisionally only and with some doubts as to its validity.

I have examined two of Blanford's Basra specimens, as well as two recently obtained at the same place by Col. Wall* and one from Amara, Mesopotamia, received from Capt. P. A. Buxton.

Var. *schlueteri*.

Ophiops schlueteri, Boettg. Ber. Senck. Ges. 1879-80, p. 176, pl. iii. fig. 3.

This is the most distinct of the various forms grouped under *O. elegans*, and one might feel inclined to regard it as a valid species. There is, however, an overlap in the numerical character of the scales as compared with the typical form, and no constancy in the other characters pointed out in the original description; so that it is better to treat *O. schlueteri* as a variety, completely connected with the typical form and the var. *ehrenbergii*.

The dorsal scales are small, the posterior always much smaller than the basal caudals; they form 10 to 14 longitudinal series between the hind limbs; 38 to 49 scales and plates round the middle of the body, usually 40 to 46. The femoral pores number 10 to 16 on each side, usually 11 to 15. The temporal scales are usually smaller than in the typical form (50 to 90 instead of 34 to 63, 27 to 50 in the var. *ehrenbergii*). A more or less distinct gular fold; collar usually distinct, but very rarely quite free. The subocular borders the mouth very narrowly, its lower border is rarely more than one-fourth the length of the upper. One specimen has a single postnasal instead of two.

This variety is confined to Palestine (I have examined specimens from Mt. Hermon and Baalbeck) and Cyprus. It should be regarded as, on the whole, the most primitive of the forms included under *O. elegans*.

"In two specimens . . . the lower nasal is joined to the lower postnasal, so that the nasal shields resemble those in *Chondrophiops* [= *Gymnops*] or *Eremias*."

* Preserved in the collection of the Bombay Natural History Society.